

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /060 W
-----099596 181326Z /46

R 181200Z JUL 77
FM AMCONSUL MILAN
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5497

C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 1187

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: MILAN DC SECRETARY UPBEAT ON PARTY

1. SUMMARY. MILAN DC PROVINCIAL SECRETARY SAYS DC HAS
FOUND NEW SPIRIT WHILE COMMUNISTS LOSING STEAM. NOTHING
INEVITABLE, IN HIS OPINION, ABOUT PCI ENTRY INTO GOVERN-
MENT. END SUMMARY.

2. EXECUTIVE OFFICER CALLED JULY 15 ON MILAN DC PRO-
VINCIAL SECRETARY ROBERTO MAZZOTTA. HE IS YOUTHFUL DC
DEPUTY, FORMER UNDERSECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE, AND UNTIL
LAST DECEMBER, PORTEGE OF AGRICULTURE MINISTER AND DC
LEFTIST POWERHOUSE GIOVANNI MARCORA. HE BROKE WITH
MARCORA OVER LATTER'S ADVOCACY THAT DC PREPARE ITSELF
TO ALLOW PCI FORMALLY INTO GOVERNMENT. AS ONE OF BRIGHTEST
AND MOST EXPERIENCED DC DEPUTIES OF YOUNGER GENERATION,
MAZZOTTA'S VIEWS ON STATE OF PARTY WORTH NOTING.

3. MAZZOTTA CLAIMED NEW SPIRIT AT WORK AMONG CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATS HERE THAT WAS CHANGING CHARACTER OF PARTY. PARTY
FACTIONS, PERHAPS PRIME REASONS FOR DC'S ATROPHIED STATE
THROUGH JUNE 1975, WERE LOSING IMPORTANCE AND, CONCOMITANTLY,
PARTY GETTING OUT AGAIN AMONG PEOPLE. THERE WOULD BE OVER 200
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DC "FRIENDSHIP" FESTIVALS THROUGHOUT LOMBARDY THIS YEAR
- FIRST TIME FESTIVALS HAD REALLY BEEN PUSHED - AND EACH
WAS AVERAGING TWICE TURNOUT OF COMMUNIST "L'UNITA" FESTIVALS.
THESE WERE HEARTENING SPECTACLES FOR LOCAL DC WORKERS WHO HAD
GROWN USED TO COMMUNIST MONOPLOY OF IDEA OF POPULAR
GATHERINGS. PROVINCIAL PARTY WAS ALSO INCREASING STRENGTH
WITHIN CISL AND, ON MANAGEMENT SIDE, WAS SPONSORING

NUMEROUS LOCAL GET-TOGETHERS WITH SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESS-MEN.

4. THIS WAS TYPE OF FERMENT THAT WAS REDUCING POWER OF FACTIONS THAT WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR RETURNING SAME OLD FACES TO PARLIAMENT ELECTION AFTER ELECTION. MORO, ANDREOTTI, AND FANFANI, ALTHOUGH MEN OF HIGHEST QUALITY, HAD INEVITABLY LOST TOUCH WITH YOUNGER PEOPLE. AND GENERATION BELOW - MEN LIKE BESAGLIA - WERE WORSE, LACKING STATURE OF PREDECESSORS BUT HEAVILY FLAWED BY BUDDY AND PATRONAGE SYSTEM THAT KEPT THEM WHERE THEY WERE. TAKING EXAMPLE PREVIOUS DAY'S NEWS. MAZZOTTA CABLED BESAGLIA'S CHOICE OF 70 YEAR OLD SENATOR MEDICI TO HEAD MONTEDISON "INCREDIBLE." MEDICI WAS KINDLY, ESTIMABLE GENTLE MAN WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN CULTIVATING TULIPS RATHER THAN FILLING JOB THAT CALLED FOR DYNAMIC AND EXPERIENCED MANAGER. ANYWAY, DAYS WERE NUMBERED FOR DC POLITICIANS LIKE BESAGLIA. FACTION HEADS WERE BECOMING LEADERS WITHOUT TROOPS.

5. DC RENEWAL, OF COURSE, STILL HAD WAYS TO GO. MAZZOTTA ADMITTED MILAN DC SELF-FINANCING SCHEME, BEGUN EARLY THIS YEAR, NOT MOVING ALONG AS WELL AS HE HAD HOPED. PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO PARTY SO FAR AMOUNTED TO ABOUT 150 MILLION LIRE (\$170,000) FROM SOME 2000 DONORS. RESPONSE WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER BUT MANY DC POLITICIANS NOT SUPPORTING IDEA. ONLY THREE OF AREA'S 20 DC PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE COOPERATING. OTHERS WERE OBVIOUSLY SUSPICIOUS, POSSIBLY BECAUSE THEY FELT CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT HE (MAZZOTTA) MIGHT BE EXPLOITING MATTER FOR SELF-PROMOTION. BUT IT WAS CREDITABLE BEGINNING AND NEXT YEAR MORE DC POLITICANS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY JOIN IN.

6. MAZZOTTA SAID COMMUNISTS HAVE PROVEN MEDIOCRE ADMINISTRATORS AND THEIR IDEAS NO LONGER ENJOY FACINATION OF NOVELTY. THEREFORE HE DID NOT FEAR COMPETITION WITH THEM BUT HOPED BY DEALING WITH THEM TO CHANGE THEM. NOT THAT HE FELT PCI HAS BECOME DEMOCRATIC PARTY. COMMUNISTS CONCEPTION OF INDIVIDUAL AS SUBORDINATE TO SOCIETY WAS PROFOUNDLY ANTITHETIC TO WESTERN DEMOCRATIC IDEAL AND HE WAS CONVINCED THAT, IF PCI HAD TEN YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED DOMINANCE, ITALIANS WOULD BE REGIMENTED JUST AS RIGIDLY AS UNDER FASCISM. HAT WAS WHY HE WAS NOT EVEN TEMPTED BY MILAN PCI'S OBVIOUS WILLINGNESS TO DUMP SOCIALIST PARTNERS IN FAVOR OF COALITION WITH DC. IN FACT, MAZZOTTA THOUGHT OPPOSITION ROLE A HEALTHY ONE FOR DC. FIVE YEARS IN OPPOSITION AT NATIONAL LEVEL WOULD IN HIS OPINION COMPLETE RENEWAL OF PARTY THAT HAD ALREADY BEGUN.

7. AS FOR SOCIALISTS, SAID MAZZOTTA, THEY WERE DEAD LOSS FOR MOMENT. ALL ONE COULD DO WAS HOPE FOR SOME CHANGE IN THEIR ATTITUDE, MEANWHILE REFRAINING FROM ATTACKS WHICH MIGHT

MAKE FUTURE RECONCILIATION WITH THEM MORE DIFFICULT.

8. AND SHOULD CONSTITUTE DC'S POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AS
PARTY LOOKED TOWARD FUTURE? BASIS SHOULD BE NEITHER LIBERALISM
NOR CHRISTIANITY, ANSWERED MAZZOTTA, BUT AMERICAN IDEALS OF
PRIMACY OF INDIVIDUAL, RESPECT FOR LAW, AND PRAGMATIC
APPROACH TO PROBLEM-SOLVING. DC IN SHORT SHOULD BE PUSHING
ITALY IN AMERICA'S DIRECTION.

9. COMMENT: MAZZOTTA IS ONE OF SANEST AND MOST TALENTED
YOUNGER POLITICIANS IN NORTHERN ITALY. HIS CONFIDENCE OVER CURRENT
STATE OF DC, HIS REFUSAL TO CONSIDER COMMUNISTS TEN FEET
TALL, AND HIS FRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARD U.S. ARE ALL REASONS
FOR OPTIMISM THAT DC IS STRENGTHENING AND ALONG DESIRABLE LINES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LEADERS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770254-1240
Format: TEL
From: MILAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770747/aaaabosl.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1830794
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILAN DC SECRETARY UPBEAT ON PARTY
TAGS: PINT, IT, (MAZZOTTA, ROBERTO)
To: ROME
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/488f1d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009